

Request for Reconsideration
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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were presented for examination. The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 10-14, and objects to claims 3-5, 7 and 9 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No amendments are made. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application.

Rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tenonaka (U.S. Patent 6,487,223). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, because Tenonaka does not disclose translating an administrative unit (AU-n) to a tributary unit (TU-n) by putting the AU-n pointer of the AU-n into the TU-n, as set forth in the Applicant's claimed invention.

The Applicant's invention, as set forth in claim 1, translates an AU-n to a TU-n. As a result of the translation, the AU-n becomes the TU-n. Fig. 2 of the Applicant's specification graphically represents a translation to a TU-n by extending a right-to-left directional arrow from an AU-n to the TU-n.

Unlike the Applicant's invention, Tenonaka does not translate from an AU-n to a TU-n. Instead, Tenonaka teaches the prior art technique of mapping a TU-3 to an AU-4 through the intermediate stages of a TUG-3 and a VC-4. This technique of mapping a TU-3 to an AU-4 is also shown in Figure 1B (labeled prior art) of the Applicant's specification. In particular, note that the rising hierarchical order among the TU-3, TUG-3, VC-4, and AU-4 are the same in Tenonaka's Figure 4 as in the Applicant's prior art Figure 1B.

The difference between Tenonaka's mapping and the Applicant's translating is illustrated by the different results obtained. Tenonaka adds an AU-4 pointer to a VC-4 (i.e., a virtual container comprised of three TUG-3s) to produce an AU-4, whereas the Applicant's invention puts an AU-n pointer in a TU-n to translate the AU-n into the TU-n. Tenonaka's mapping produces an AU-4, whereas the Applicant's translating produces a TU-n.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that Tenonaka does not disclose every claimed limitation of the Applicant's invention and therefore requests the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 11, the Applicant's invention puts an AU-n pointer in an AU-n payload and translates the AU-n payload having the AU-n pointer to a TU-n payload. As argued above in connection with claim 1, Tenonaka does not disclose or suggest translating AU-n into a TU-n; consequently, Tenonaka also does not disclose or suggest translating an AU-n payload into a TU-n payload. Instead, Tenonaka teaches adding an AU-4 pointer to a VC-4. However, the AU-4 pointer is being added to the header overhead (see FIG. 6 and col. 9, lines 33-39), and not to the AU-4 payload. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn because Tenonaka does not disclose every claimed limitation of the Applicant's invention, namely putting an AU-n pointer in an AU-n payload and translating the AU-n payload having the AU-n pointer to a TU-n payload.

Claims 2, 6, 8, and 10 depend directly or indirectly from the patentable independent claim 1, and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, and therefore are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least those reasons provided in connection with claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims also be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 over Norman (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,802) in view of Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,213), and further in view of Chao (U.S. Patent No. 4,893,306). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a payload field having a plurality of AU pointers in a TU pointer area, as set forth in the Applicant's claimed invention.

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Applicant's invention, as set forth in independent claim, recites a multiplexed signal having a section overhead field and a payload field. The section overhead field has an AU pointer and the payload field has a plurality of AU pointers hidden in a TU pointer area

Norman and Nakamura disclose standard signal structures having an AU-pointer in the section overhead of a multiplexed signal, but neither reference discloses or suggests having a plurality of AU pointers hidden in a TU pointer area of the payload field of that signal. Chao discloses a hierarchical multiplexing plan that multiplexes tributaries having different bit rates into a common bit stream. But Chao also does not disclose or suggest a payload field of a multiplexed signal with a plurality of AU pointers hidden in a TU pointer area of that payload field. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn because none of the cited references teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, a multiplexed signal having an overhead with an AU-pointer and a payload field having a plurality of AU pointers hidden in the TU pointer area of the payload field, as set forth in the Applicant's claimed invention.

Claims 13 and 14 depend directly from the patentable independent claim 12, and incorporate all of the limitations of the claim 12, and therefore are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least those reasons provided in connection with claim 12. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection against these claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments made herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

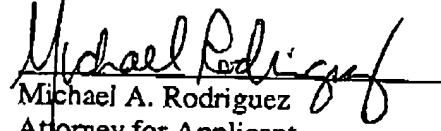
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If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicant's representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

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Respectfully submitted,


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